

New law creates the Disparity Commission within the Dept. of Health and Hospitals from October 1, 1999 to March 31, 2001, and provides for the commission to accept grants and private donations to assist it to carry out its functions.

New law further provides for the commission to be composed as follows:

- (1) The chancellor of the Louisiana State University Medical Center or his designee.
- (2) The dean of the Louisiana State University Medical Center in Shreveport or his designee.
- (3) The chancellor of Tulane University Medical Center or his designee.
- (4) The chairman of the House Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.
- (5) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare or his designee.
- (6) The speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives or his designee.
- (7) The president of the Louisiana Senate or his designee.
- (8) The secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals or his designee.
- (9) The secretary of the Dept. of Social Services or his designee.
- (10) A representative of the office of the governor, to be appointed by the governor.
- (11) The president of the Louisiana Medical Association or his designee.
- (12) The president of the Louisiana Primary Care Association or his designee.
- (13) The president of the Louisiana Health Care Campaign or his designee.
- (14) The dean of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine or his designee.
- (15) The executive director of the Louisiana Maternal and Child Health Coalition or his designee.
- (16) The president of the Louisiana State Medical Society or his designee.

New law provides for the commission to convene no later than October 1, 1999, and to meet quarterly or on request, and provides for the secretary of the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to appoint the executive director, chairman, and vice chairman, with the approval of the commission.

New law provides for the duties of the commission as follows:

- (1) The collection of data related to the disparity in death rates in Louisiana between blacks and whites, men and women, and elderly and young, whose deaths are preventable.

- (2) Identification of gaps in the health care and social service delivery systems which cause or contribute to the disparity in death rates.
- (3) Recommendations for a public education campaign to raise awareness of factors which contribute to the disparity in death rates.
- (4) Recommendations to reduce cultural, environmental, and socioeconomic barriers to services and treatment which would reduce the disparity in death rates.
- (5) Coordination with the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention to share resources and information.

New law provides for the commission to submit a report to the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees prior to the convening of the 2001 Regular Session.

New law provides for the commission's statutory authority to terminate on March 31, 2001.

Effective August 15, 1999.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.184-1299.188)